

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5638

INFO AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

AMEMBASSY DACCA

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

RUMJHTW

MOO BASSY KATHMANDU 7182

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMCONSUL BOMBAY

AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

AMCONSUL MADRAS

C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 16494

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MY, IN

SUBJECT: MALAYSIAN KING AND QUEEN VISIT INDIA

SUMMARY - DURING A VISIT TO NEW DELHI DECEMBER 6-9, THE KING OF MALAYSIA HAD AN OPPORTUNITY TO LEARN INDIA'S VIEWS ON THE INDIAN OCEAN AND OTHER QUESTIONS OF MUTUAL INTEREST. ACCORDING TO AN OFFICIAL OF THE MALAYSIAN HIGH COMMISSION, THE GOI IS EXTREMELY INTERESTED IN HAVING THE MALAYSIAN PRIME MINISTER VISIT INDIA IN 1975. END SUMMARY.

1. THE KING AND QUEEN OF MALAYSIA CONCLUDED A THREE-DAY GOOD WILL VISIT TO INDIA DECEMBER 9, LEAVING THE SAME DAY FOR PAKISTAN TO COMPLETE A TEN-DAY TOUR OF THE MAJOR ASIAN SUBCONTINENT COUNTRIES. DURING HIS STAY IN NEW
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DELHI THE KING HAD MEETINGS WITH PRESIDENT AHMED, PRIME

MINISTER GANDHI, AND EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MINISTER CHAVAN. JUDGING BOTH FROM THE INDIAN PRESS AND COMMENTS BY THE CONSELOR OF THE MALAYSIAN HIGH COMMISSION TO AN EMBASSY OFFICER, INDIAN OFFICIALS USED THE OCCASION BOTH TO PROMOTE THEIR IDEAS ON THE INDIAN OCEAN AND TO ENCOURAGE A VISIT BY THE MALAYSIAN PRIME MINISTER TO INDIA NEXT YEAR.

2. ACCORDING TO THE DELHI PRESS MINISTER CHAVAN AND THE KING MET ON DECEMBER 7 AND "DISCUSSED THE LATEST SITUATION IN THE INDIAN OCEAN ARISING OUT OF THE BRITISH DECISION TO HELP THE UNITED STATES TO EXPAND THE BASE FACILITIES IN DIEGO GARCIA..." AS WELL AS "THE STRATEGY TO BE ADOPTED BY THE LITTORAL STATES TO KEEP THE INDIAN OCEAN A ZONE OF PEACE...." THE MALAYSIAN COUNSELOR TOLD US DECEMBER 10 THAT THIS WAS IN FACT A "ONE-SIDED" CONVERSATION SINCE CHAVAN DID MOST OF THE TALKING, AND THE INDIAN PRESS WAS APPARENTLY BEING USED TO PUBLICIZE THE GOI'S OWN "ANXIETIES." THE KING DID ENDORSE "THE RATIONALE AND SOUNDNESS OF A ZONE OF PEACE, FREEDOM AND NEUTRALITY" AS WELL AS THE KUALA LUMPUR DECLARATION IN HIS DECEMBER 9 BANQUET SPEECH BUT WAS NOT DRAWN INTO ANY REAL EXCHANGE ON THE SUBJECT, ACCORDING TO THE MALAYSIAN EMBASSY OFFICER.

3. IN AN ANALYSIS OF INDO-MALAYSIAN RELATIONS ON THE EVE OF THE ROYAL VISIT, THE STATESMAN CORRESPONDENT (VISWAM) IN KUALA LUMPUR NOTED THERE HAD BEEN "A DISCERNIBLE COOLING DOWN IN POLITICAL RELATIONS" AND ATTRIBUTED THE PROBLEM TO A "MARKED INDIFFERENCE TOWARDS THINGS INDIAN, THE TENDENCY OF THE MALAYSIAN PRESS TO HIGHLIGHT NEWS WHICH PLACES INDIA IN AN ADVERSE LIGHT AND A CERTAIN ALOOFNESS IN OFFICIAL ATTITUDES" IN MALAYSIA. ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE LEDGER, VISWAM SAID THAT INDIAN OFFICIALS MUST SHARE THE BLAME "IF TRADE AND ECONOMIC TIES HAVE NOT BEEN STRENGTHENED FURTHER." VISWAM CONCLUDED HIS ANALYSIS BY SAYING THAT NOTHING WOULD HELP DEVELOP RELATIONS MORE SUCCESSFULLY THAN WERE THE KING'S VISIT OF THE PRECURSOR OF AN OFFICIAL VISIT BY THE PRIME MINISTER IN THE COMING YEAR.

4. THE MALAYSIAN COUNSELOR TOLD US THAT THE ROYAL PARTY
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LEFT INDIA WITH THE IMPRESSION THE INDIAN GOVERNMENT IS EXTREMELY INTERESTED IN HAVING PRIME MINISTER TUN RAZAK PAY A VISIT IN 1975. THEY WERE "ALMOST PLEADING," HE COMMENTED. WITHOUT OFFERING ANY IDEA WHETHER HE THOUGHT SUCH A VISIT WOULD BE POSSIBLE, HE SAW IT SERVING NOT ONLY IMPROVED INDO-MALAYSIAN RELATIONS BUT ALSO THE CAUSE OF AVOWEDLY SECULAR INDIA IN ITS CONTINUING COMPETITION WITH ISLAMIC PAKISTAN FOR INFLUENCE AMONG DEVELOPING COUNTRIES.

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